

November 10, 2011

The Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Interagency Council on Homelessness

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing in support of the request that you utilize your executive power to create a California Interagency Council on Homelessness. The creation of this Council will provide Statewide leadership needed by the City of San José and our partners in our quest to end homelessness in our community.

California has the largest homeless population in the nation, with 360,000 people sleeping on the streets or in shelters on any given night. Yet, California does not have an Interagency Council on Homelessness as do forty-one other states. Creating this Council would aid the more than ten California State agencies that currently administer programs to those who are homeless and would help us draw down additional Federal dollars to help serve those most in need.

San José has made ending homelessness - particularly chronic homelessness - a priority. Even though we are located in the heart of Silicon Valley, where incomes are among the highest in the nation, our most recent point-in-time homeless count identified more than 4,000 homeless persons. Using this statistic, and a formula that recognizes that people cycle in and out of homelessness, it is estimated that 10,844 individuals in San José will be homeless at some point during the year. This is an increase of 21% in just two years. In response, we have joined with other cities, the County of Santa Clara, and the private sector in creating Destination: Home, a public-private partnership to end chronic homelessness in our community. Because homelessness has no boundaries, we need the State's leadership in order to accomplish the goals of Destination: Home. The first step is the creation of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

I urge you to consider using your executive power to create this Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chuck Reed
Mayor

cc: Assemblymember Paul Fong
San Jose Legislative Delegation
Roxanne Miller, San Jose Legislative Representative